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HOUSE MEMORIAL 17

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Ambrose Castellano

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING JANUARY 20, 2022 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been an important educational, cultural, social and economic asset in New Mexico, particularly northern New Mexico, since 1893; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university serves nearly three thousand students each year and has over five hundred employees at the school's main campus and centers; and

WHEREAS, the vision of New Mexico highlands university is to be a premier university, transforming lives and communities now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the core values of New Mexico highlands university are excellence, diversity, accessibility and responsiveness; and

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1 WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands university
2 are academic excellence, academic integration and student
3 success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant campus and
4 university life; community partnerships; technological
5 advancement and innovation; and enhanced communication and
6 efficiency across the university; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively
8 serves students across the state and beyond its borders, online
9 and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas, Santa Fe,
10 Farmington, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque and Roswell; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active
12 alumni, representing every state, nineteen Indian nations,
13 tribes and pueblos and many countries, and seeks to effectively
14 reach out to all alumni through the establishment of a vibrant
15 alumni association board of directors while offering engaging
16 events for alumni and community members; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was named one of
18 the most diverse regional universities in the western United
19 States by *U.S. News & World Report*; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is partnering
21 with New Mexico state university, eastern New Mexico university
22 and the developmental disabilities council in designing an
23 adult guardianship court visitor program to support the New
24 Mexico court system and to enhance the training and
25 professional development of students in social work; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university had an
2 unprecedented grant year with over thirteen million dollars
3 (\$13,000,000) awarded and continues to navigate the unchartered
4 waters of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, providing over
5 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in emergency financial
6 assistance to students through the foundation and university,
7 over and above federally funded coronavirus disease 2019
8 pandemic assistance; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university acquired a New
10 Mexico governor's emergency education relief fund grant to
11 support students and fund purchases resulting from the
12 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university developed three
14 new degree programs: a master of arts in criminology, a master
15 of arts in cultural resource management and a bachelor of
16 science degree in wildlife biology and conservation; acquired a
17 three-million-eight-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$3,800,000)
18 five-year grant from the national science foundation to support
19 science, technology, engineering and mathematics students in a
20 partnership with the university of California, Santa Barbara;
21 received seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for two
22 United States department of agriculture projects to support
23 technology and connectivity to New Mexico highlands university
24 in the Mora community; and supported high school and community
25 college students with science, technology, engineering and

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1 mathematics summer programming at the Rio Mora wildlife refuge;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, only three out of twelve athletic teams have been
4 able to compete during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,
5 while one hundred thirty-two New Mexico highlands university
6 athletes earned a cumulative three-point-zero grade point
7 average or higher; eighty-one athletes earned a cumulative
8 three and five-tenths grade point average or higher; twenty-one
9 athletes earned a four-point-zero grade point average; nine
10 athletes were recognized as all Rocky Mountain athletic
11 conference performers; twenty-one athletes were recognized as
12 Rocky Mountain athletic conference academic performers; one
13 athlete was a gold glove recipient; three Rocky Mountain
14 athletic conference champions were recognized in women's track;
15 and student athletes contributed over two thousand hours of
16 community service; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university established the
18 general store to address the basic needs and food insecurities
19 of students; implemented the engage@hu co-curricular transcript
20 system and created multiple guided pathways; partnered with El
21 Centro family health to continue access to medical and
22 behavioral health care through telehealth services for all
23 students; renovated Connor hall and the natatorium; and
24 increased access to coronavirus disease 2019 testing for the
25 community by establishing a testing site on campus; and

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